

C. GRIMMEL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—154 per cent. premium, sellers.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Prometheus*, from London, left Singapore on the morning of the 20th instant, and is due here on the 26th.

The "Glen" Line steamer *Glenshield*, from London, left Singapore on the 22nd instant, and is expected here on the 28th.

The China Shippers Mutual S. N. Co.'s steamer *Opalock*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 23rd instant, and is expected here on the 29th.

SHIPPING.

CHINA.

Ferro, German steamer, 754, T. N. Hansen, 23rd April.—*Newchwang*, and *Chefoo* 19th April.—*Beans*.—*Ed. Schellhass & Co.*

ESPOIR, British gunboat, and-class, 465 tons, 470 horse-power, 4 guns. Lieutenant-Commander H. V. Smith, 23rd April.—from Canton: *OXUS*, French steamer, 2,391, J. M. Guiraud, 23rd April.—*Shanghai*, 21st April. Mails and General—*Messageries Maritimes*.

VENETIA, British steamer, 1,609, Cole, 24th April.—*Shanghai*, 21st April. Mails and General.—*P. & O. S. N. Co.*

HAIKHONG, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 24th April.—*Saigon* 14th April. Faddy and Rice.—*D. Lapraik & Co.*

ACHILLES, British steamer, 1,528, C. Anderson, 24th April.—*Liverpool*, 10th March, and *Singapore* 18th April. General—*Butterfield & Swire*.

RUSSIA, Russian steamer, 1,813, R. Stronsky, 24th April.—*Odesa* 20th March, General—*Melchers & Co.*

TRITOS, German steamer, 1,142, Bleicken, 24th April.—*Saigon* 7th April. Rice.—*Ed. Schellhass & Co.*

TANJOE, British steamer, 1,402, F. Speck, 24th April.—*Bombay* 7th April, and *Singapore* 16th April. General.—*P. & O. S. N. Co.*

CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.

Melita, German steamer, for *Taku*.
Olympia, German steamer, for *Singapore*.
Phra Chula Chom Kla, British steamer, for *Swatow*, &c.

Activ, Danish steamer, for *Hoifoo*.
Augusta, German bark, for *Bangkok*.
Thales, British steamer, for *Swatow*, &c.
Russia, Russian steamer, for *Nagasaki*.

DEPARTURES.

April 23.—*Wanderer*, British sloop, for a cruise.
April 23.—*Yangtsze*, British str., for *Whampoa*.
April 24.—*Decima*, German steamer, for *Saigon*.
April 24.—*Phra Chula Chom Kla*, British str., for *Swatow*, &c.

April 24.—*Thales*, British str., for *Swatow*, &c.
April 24.—*Melita*, German steamer, for *Taku*.
April 24.—*Olympia*, German str., for *Singapore*.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

Per *Oxus*, str., from *Shanghai*.—For Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Jantzen and infant, Mr. L. C. de Roario, and 3 Chinese. From *Yokohama*.—Mr. Grillo and infant. From *Shanghai*.—For *Saigon*.—Mr. Lebere. For *Alexandria*. Mrs. Delmarie and infant. From *Kobe*.—For *Marselles*.—Messrs. Renard, Borgiotti, and Guerrieri.

NEW MALWA, per picul, \$550
(Allowance, Taels 16 to 48).

OLD MALWA, per picul, \$570 to \$580
(Allowance, Taels 16 to 32).

NEW PATNA, (without choice) per chest, \$485
NEW PATNA, (first choice) per chest, \$467
NEW PATNA, (bottom) per chest, \$435
NEW PATNA, (second choice) per chest, \$462
NEW BENAKA, (without choice) per chest, \$4772
NEW BENAKA, (bottom) per chest, \$4772
NEW PERSIAN (best quality) per picul, \$600
OLD PERSIAN (best quality) per picul, \$550
OLD PERSIAN (second quality) per picul, \$575

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

23rd April, 1888.—At 4 p.m.

STATION	Barom.	Temp.	Humidity	Wind.	W. Wind.	W. Wind.	W. Wind.
Wladiwostock	29.92	71	—	N	4	1	1
Takao	29.92	71	—	N	4	1	1
Nagasaki	29.92	71	—	N	4	1	1
Shanghai	29.97	84	87	NE	—	—	—
Amoy	29.99	84	85	NE	—	—	—
Hankow	29.82	81	75	SW	3	2	2
Hongkong	29.82	83	75	SW	3	2	2
Macau	29.81	81	75	SW	3	2	2
Mauls	29.81	81	75	SW	3	2	2

24th April, 1888.—At 10 a.m.

STATION	Barom.	Temp.	Humidity	Wind.	W. Wind.	W. Wind.	W. Wind.
Wladiwostock	29.92	49	86	NE	—	—	—
Takao	29.92	49	86	NE	—	—	—
Nagasaki	29.92	49	86	NE	—	—	—
Shanghai	29.97	84	87	NE	—	—	—
Amoy	29.99	84	85	NE	—	—	—
Hankow	29.82	81	75	SW	3	2	2
Hongkong	29.82	83	75	SW	3	2	2
Macau	29.81	81	75	SW	3	2	2
Mauls	29.81	81	75	SW	3	2	2

The barometer has fallen in *Tungku* and risen along the coast.

Cloudy, warm and damp weather prevails with some fog in the Formosa Channel.—Barometer reduced to level of the sea 1 inches, tenths and hundredths.—Temperature in the shade 16 degrees, Fahrenheit.—Wind, 10-12 miles per hour, N. East, SW. Directions of the wind to two points.—Force of the wind according to Beaufort's Scale.—State of the weather, 8. High sky. Detached clouds, 1. Partly cloudy, 2. Fairly cloudy, 3. Cloudy, 4. Overcast, 5. Pasting showers, 6. Squally, 7. Rain, 8. Thunder, 9. Visibility, 10. Dew wet, 11. Rain in inches, tenths and hundredths.

W. Dossman.

Hongkong Observatory, 24th April, 1888.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. FALCONER & CO.'S REGISTER).

To—

Barometer—O.M. 30.02

Barometer—P.M. 29.98

Barometer—F.M. 29.98

Thermometer—O.M. 74

Thermometer—P.M. 74 (Wet bulb)

Thermometer—F.M. 74

Thermometer—Maximum 85

Thermometer—Minimum (over night) 80

MAILS EXPECTED.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Sydney*, with the American mail of March 31st, left Yokohama on the 1st instant, and is due here on or about the 27th.

THE FRENCH MAIL.

The M. M. Co.'s steamer *Djemnah*, with the French mail of March 24th, left Saigon on the 23rd instant, at 1 p.m., and is due here on or about the 26th.

THE CANADIAN MAIL.

The Canadian Pacific Line steamer *Balaclava*, with the Canadian mail, left Vancouver on the 4th April, and is due here about the 3rd May.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer *Tatting*, from Calcutta, left Singapore on the 2nd instant, and is due here on the 28th.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Prometheus*, from London, left Singapore on the morning of the 20th instant, and is due here on the 26th.

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VENETIA, British steamer, 1,609, Cole, 24th April.—*Shanghai*, 21st April. Mails and General.—*P. & O. S. N. Co.*

HAIKHONG, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 24th April.—*Saigon* 14th April. Faddy and Rice.—*D. Lapraik & Co.*

ACHILLES, British steamer, 1,528, C. Anderson, 24th April.—*Liverpool*, 10th March, and *Singapore* 18th April. General—*Butterfield & Swire*.

RUSSIA, Russian steamer, 1,813, R. Stronsky, 24th April.—*Odesa* 20th March, General—*Melchers & Co.*

TRITOS, German steamer, 1,142, Bleicken, 24th April.—*Saigon* 7th April. Rice.—*Ed. Schellhass & Co.*

TANJOE, British steamer, 1,402, F. Speck, 24th April.—*Bombay* 7th April, and *Singapore* 16th April. General.—*P. & O. S. N. Co.*

SAILING VESSELS.

AUGUSTE, German bark, 1,396, Schumacher, 31st March.—*Cardiff* 7th November. Coals.—*Oxus*, French steamer, 2,391, J. M. Guiraud, 23rd April.—*Shanghai*, 18th April. Coals.

CENTENNIAL, American ship, 1,222, J. M. Bearce, 27th Jan.—*New York*, 18th Sept. Kerosene Oil.—*Russell & Co.*

COLUMBUS, German ship, 1,207, L. Haesloop, 11th April.—*Singapore* 9th March. Timber.

Rambler, surveying-vessel, 830 tons, 600 h.p., 3 guns. Commander W. A. Moore, Hongkong.

Merlin, gunboat, and-class, 430 tons, 430 h.p., 4 guns. Lieutenant-Commander W. H. Maturin, Hongkong.

Sophie, cruiser, 3rd-class, 1,070 tons, 2,360 h.p., 12 guns. Captain W. C. Karslake, Hongkong.

Satellite, cruiser, 3rd-class, 1,420 tons, 1,400 h.p., 8 guns. Captain T. P. W. Nesham, Hongkong.

Swift, gun-vessel, 2nd-class, 750 tons, 1,010 h.p., 5 guns. Commander A. C. B. Bromley, Hongkong, re-commissioning.

Tweed, gunboat, Coast Defence, 3rd-class, 363 tons, 340 h.p., 3 guns. Boatswain T. M. Shee, Hongkong, in reserve.

Victor, receiving-ship, 5,157 tons, 20 guns. Commodore W. H. Maxwell, A.D.C., Hongkong.

Wiven, Coast Defence ship (armoured), 2,750 tons, 1,450 h.p., 4 guns. Gunner D. W. Hawkins, Hongkong, in reserve.

Wanderer, sloop, 925 tons, 750 h.p., 4 guns. Commander G. A. Giffard, on a cruise, re-commissioning.

PACTOLUS, American ship, 1,141, H. D. Burnham, 20th April.—*Shanghai*, 11th April. Ballast.—*Pastou* & Co.

PENSHAW, British bark, 617, G. Parker, 31st March.—*Pitago* 23rd March. Timber.

MOUNT LEBANON, American bark, 530, Chas. H. Nelson, 17th April.—*Rajang*, Borneo, 18th March. Timber.

MOUNT LEBANON, American bark, 530, Chas. H. Nelson, 17th April.—*Rajang*, Borneo, 18th March. Timber.

MOUNT LEBANON, American bark, 530, Chas. H. Nelson, 17th April.—*Rajang*, Borneo, 18th March. Timber.

tative of the United States in the country or port where they depart. It is also agreed that Chinese labourers shall continue to enjoy the privilege of transit across the territory of the United States in the course of their journey or from other countries subject to such regulations by the Government of the United States as may be necessary to prevent such privilege of transit from being abused.

THE LATE MR. RUSSELL BROOKE
ROBERTSON, C.M.G.

The death of Mr. Russell Brooke Robertson, which occurred on the morning of the 10th inst., from heart disease, is justly felt as a great blow, by all his countrymen in Japan, and the feeling of universal sorrow has been intensified by the suddenness of the event. Returning with well-deserved honour from home to resume, in a position of high responsibility, his official duties in Japan, he was received by the British Community of Yokohama with a warmth of welcome which bore testimony to the high appreciation in which his past services were held. He had been entertained by all that a long career of useful work might be yet before him has been truly shattered by the hand of death. To few men is it given to be esteemed so widely as an official and as a friend. The first few years of his official career began of an early age, were passed in stirring times, which called forth the many sterling qualities of his character and fitted him for the responsibilities attached to the rapid promotion which he gained. His appointment as Consul in 1871 brought him into close official relations with the late Sir Harry Parkes, and between these two, who in their intense patriotism and devotion to duty had much in common, the warmest friendship was formed.

To a breadth of view rarely found in those whose duties lie for long in the same field of labour, Mr. Robertson united that natural love of work which is the secret of success, and the quiet courage which welcomes responsibility. Perhaps, however, the quality for which he will be best remembered is the sterling commonsense which characterized all his official actions. Like his late colleague Mr. Zappe, with whom he was always in the closest accord, Robertson worked untiringly, not alone for his own countrymen, but on behalf of the whole foreign community of Yokohama. As a British official he made the interests of his country his aim, and the record of the progress of British Trade in Japan is in one sense the story of his life. Graved as we must all be that one whom we could so ill afford to lose should be cut off thus suddenly in the prime of life, and that a career so rich in promise and so fraught with usefulness should be thus prematurely stopped, there is some comfort in the reflection that he died, as he would have wished to die, at his post, amongst those by whom he was best known and best loved, and in the place for which he has done so much.

On Thursday afternoon the remains of the deceased were interred in the General Cemetery. The coffin was conveyed from the house shortly before four o'clock to Christ Church, being preceded by a consular officer bearing the deceased's Orders and a stretcher bearing many wreaths and attended by the chief mourners and pall-bearers, and a small naval escort. It had been announced that a service would take place at four o'clock in the Church, and that building was in consequence crowded by those who had attended to take part in the last sal offices. The coffin, on being removed from the hearse, was met by the Consular Body, borne into the church to the strains of Chopin's Funeral March, most feelingly played by Miss Leach on the organ, and set down in front of the screen of the chancel, where it remained while the service was conducted. The preliminary offices were performed by Archdeacon Shaw. The beautiful hymn "For ever with the Lord" was then sung by the choir, and, by Mrs. Robertson's request, was joined in by the large congregation with most touching and solemn effect.

Rev. Mr. Irvine then addressed the mourners in an eloquent funeral discourse.

At the conclusion of the service the coffin was taken up, carried out, and placed in the hearse, and thenceforth the funeral cortège started for the cemetery. It had been felt highly desirable that the obsequies should be participated in by an English naval contingent, and therefore telegrams were sent to Yokohama and Kobe in hope of intercepting H.M.S. "Leander", which left that port last Saturday. But from some cause the message failed to reach its destination—at any rate in sufficient time—and as a result the "Leander" did not return, but the British Navy was represented by the presence of the chiefs of H.B.M.'s Naval Establishments in Yokohama; namely, Mr. Dixon, of the Naval Depot, and Dr. Cox, of the Naval Hospital. The bands of the U.S.S. "Monocacy" and the French frigate "Turcane" came on shore, accompanied by detachments of sailors, and escorted the coffin to the cemetery. They were drawn up opposite the church line the road, and on the coffin being placed in the hearse, the band and men from the "Turcane" fell in front and formed the head of the cortège, being preceded by a file of pioneers. The procession was arranged as follows:—

Hand of France
Hand of Turkey
Hand of Mexico
Sailors from Monterey
Wreath
The Heirs
The Pathfinders
Mr. Watson
K. G. Rickett, Mollison
John and Macpherson
Chief mourners
The Hon. P. L. French and Mrs.
R. G. G. Watson
The staff of H.B.M. Court for Japan
(Meiji, Kuchi, & Moa)
The staff of H.B.M. Consulate
(Meiji, Kuchi, & Moa)
The Yokohama Bar
Japanese Official
The Consular Body
Deputation from the Yokohama United Club
The General Public

Amongst the Japanese dignitaries and officials represented at the funeral were His Highness, Prince Komatsu, by Mr. Sannomiya Yoshitane, Secretary of the Imperial Household Department; Count Okuma and Viscount Aoki, Minister and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, by Count Anenokoji, Private Secretary; Count Saigo, Minister of Marine, by Captain Kawamura of the Imperial Navy; Viscount Mishima, Superintendent-General of Metropolitan Police, &c. Amongst the officials present were His Excellency Oki Mikioka, Governor of Kanagawa-ken, and Mr. Mitaishi, Foreign Secretary of the Kencho; Judge Okama, President of the Yokohama Sabinsho, Mr. Kishio, Public Prosecutor; and Mr. Arishima, Superintendent of Customs. The English Law School of the Capital was represented, not only by its President, Mr. Masumi Rokuchiro, but also by two large floral standards in ancient Japanese style. Amongst the numerous wreaths adorning the bier, the most conspicuous were those of Prince Komatsu and of the Consular Corps.

The number of the community who walked behind the hearse was very large, probably indeed greater than has ever appeared on any similar occasion in Yokohama. The cortège proceeded by way of Awachi or Church Street to the Bund, thence past the Grand Hotel to and across the Yatobashi, and thence by way of Camp Hill to the cemetery. Outside the naval road formed up on one side, and the hearse advanced to the gate, where the coffin was removed and carried to the grave. The usual short service was then performed and very soon the last offices tendered to the deceased were concluded.

The following are Mr. Robertson's services:—

Robertson, Russell Brooke, c.m.g., m.a., was appointed a Student Interpreter in Japan, February 4, 1860; passed an examination, February 5, 1860; was appointed an Assistant in August 1861; and Assistant at Nagasaki April 1862. Appointed Consul at Nagasaki April 1863. Vice-Consul at Osaka in August 1864. Was Acting Vice-Consul at Hsigo, July 9, 1865. Was promoted to be Assistant at Hsigo from February 17, 1866. Was Acting Vice-Consul at Yedo from February 17, 1866. Was promoted to be Consul, May 9, 1871. Was in charge of the Vice-Consulate at Yedo from July 16, 1871, to May 16, 1872. Was called to the Bar at Yedo from July 16, 1872, to May 16, 1881. Was called to the Bar at Yedo from July 16, 1881, to February 1, 1881. *Japan Mail.*

CO-DAY'S
ADVERTISEMENTS.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR PORT DARWIN, SYDNEY
AND MELBOURNE.

THE Company's Steamship

"CHANGSHA"

Williams, Commander, will be despatched as above, on SUNDAY, the 29th April, at DAY-LIGHT.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. First Class Saloon and Cabins are situated forward of the engines, Second Class Passengers are Berthed in the P. A. Refrigerating chamber ensures the supply of fresh provisions during the entire voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [435]

INDO-CHINA-STEAM-NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND
CALCUTTA.

THE Company's Steamship

"TAISANG"

Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 3rd May, at 3 P.M. This Steamer has Superior First Class Accommodation, specially constructed to meet the requirements of tropical climates.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [436]

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION,
No. 171.

INFORMATION has been received from HER
BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CONSUL at San
Francisco that all Vessels arriving there from
Hongkong will be placed in quarantine for
fourteen days.

By Command, FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [439]

VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY
TO BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY.

ST. JOHN LODGE
OF HONGKONG,
No. 618, S.C.

A N EMERGENCY MEETING of the above
named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS'
HALL, Zetland Street, on FRIDAY, the 27th
instant, at 5 for 5.30 P.M. precisely. Visiting
Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [437]

ZETLAND LODGE,
No. 525.

A N EMERGENCY MEETING of the above
named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS'
HALL, Zetland Street, TO-MORROW NEXT,
the 26th April, at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely.
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [438]

MASONIC.

VICTORIA LODGE
No. 1026.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above
named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS'
HALL, Zetland Street, TO-MORROW,
the 25th instant, at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1888. [429]

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.

M R. GEORGE DIXWELL FEARON was
admitted a PARTNER in our Firm on the
1st January, 1888.

DEACON & CO.

Canton, 2nd April, 1888. [604]

NOTICE.

M R. M. GROTE has this day been admitted
a PARTNER in our Firm.

CHATER & VERNON.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1888. [53]

INSURANCES.

NOTICE.

T HE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,

No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,

Hongkong, 1st February, 1888. [150]

GENERAL NOTICE

T HE TAI INSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000.

EQUAL TO.....\$833,333.33

RESERVE FUND.....\$240,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq.

LO YEEU MOON, Esq.

LOU TEE SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL

M ARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the
world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,

Hongkong, 27th March, 1888. [151]

NOTICE.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Intimations.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR ANNUAL SUPPLY

of

LAWN GRASS SEED

and

SWEET CORN,

for immediate sowing.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1888.

15

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1888.

The importance of the functions of Interpretation in the Civil Service of Hongkong cannot be over-estimated. At least seven-eighths of the population of the island speaks Cantonese or other Southern Chinese dialects; the remaining eighth is composed of people speaking, in the sum, all the languages of Europe, with a fair sprinkling of those of Asia. English, of course, is spoken by the majority of this latter eighth; the remainder of it either speaks our language or understand it sufficiently for ordinary purposes; that is, they are well enough versed in that wretched mongrel monstrosity termed "pidgin English"—an ungrammatical conglomeration of vocabularies, and constructions culled from all manner of linguistic sources, and forming a jingling jargon as execrable as the *lingua-franca* prevalent in the Levant and on the Mediterranean shores generally. The native section of the community quickly acquire remarkable fluency in this bastard English; yet, at the Magistracy and in the Supreme Court, we frequently see these very men glib and fluent enough behind their counters to require the help of the interpreter; in fact, although apparently able to converse in English, refusing to speak otherwise than in their native language. Interpreters then are a strict and unavoidable necessity in this Eastern modern Babel of ours. Every one will see the danger of employing in such positions men who have a mere superficial acquaintance with the prevalent dialects. Specialisation in linguistic attainments, as in every other branch of human knowledge, is the prominent idea of the present time. A fair acquaintance with several languages, even though belonging to different families, is well within the limits of possibility; but without knowing the grammars of these languages, without being thoroughly conversant with the various laws on which these grammars are based, all true comparison between their idioms and special modes of expression, and consequently, all trustworthy, reliable interpretation, are quite out of the question. We would almost lay it down as a cardinal principle for guidance that all oral interpretation should be carried out by those who speak the language dealt with from birth, or at least, who are so thoroughly familiar with it that they unconsciously think in it. We first learn to speak a foreign language; afterwards to understand others. Speaking is comparatively easy, because we are always at liberty to avoid a word or phrase that is unintelligible; but, when that word or phrase is used by others, retreat is impossible.

We should like to know how many Civil Servants in this Colony are capable of understanding a rapid conversation taken at hazard between native Chinese. We are quite certain that we could number those able to undertake such a feat, on the fingers of one hand, and they have several fingers to spare. And yet such ready facility is absolutely necessary in an efficient interpreter. We will endeavour to point out a few of the essential qualifications which every good interpreter should possess: He should be a fluent, easy speaker; able to divine the incompletely meaning of the half-uttered sentence of momentary embarrassment, stimulating and awakening his native listener by unceasing variety of tone and gesture; ever on the alert. He is a word-juggler; his ear is ever stretched towards the end of a phrase that his mouth has already begun to translate, seeking to discover obscurities of meaning; to read thoughts in looks; he should without difficulty be able to detect the servility, perfidy, dissimulation and cunning that he is sure to encounter in the course of his duties—all hidden and veiled more or less successfully according to the character of the witness he has in hand; he appreciates exactly the value of words and phrases, weighs the meaning of synonyms to the smallest fraction of an ounce, and measures the dubious and

puzzling shades of the moodless, tasteless, flexionless Chinese verb with all the nicety and accuracy of a careful mathematician; he should be equally conversant with Chinese and English, and be able to pass from either to the other with equal ease and confidence. Moreover, he should be a dignified and well paid servant, as becoming the heavy responsibilities which rest in him. Watch the native witness, and you will soon see whom he fears most: not the judge, nor the magistrate, but the interpreter.

It is horribly difficult to speak idiomatically, accurately and smoothly in any Chinese dialect; such a task is the work of a life-time. Those who have not attempted the subject can have no faintest idea of the countless stumbling-blocks that stand in the way. Without doubt or exaggeration, it is one of the most difficult linguistic tasks that could be set. Not only has the language no grammar in the accepted Western sense of the word, but it has *tones*—those gymnastic vocal inflections which to the unpractised ear convey no meaning whatever, but which to the initiated and trained convey differences which mean everything; final particles alone, interrogative, affirmative, negative, assertive, and the like, are a very nightmare to the ardent and enthusiastic beginner. No study could offer more numerous or more appalling obstructions; the pathway is never smooth; it bristles with difficulties at the very outset; it is thorny to the very end. We are not speaking enigmatically when we say that the character or book language is easier to grapple with than colloquial. We could give several notable instances to exemplify this fact. We are acquainted with people in this Colony who, in a not altogether incorrect sense, might be termed Chinese scholars, who can read ordinary native literature, ancient and modern with fair ease, but who openly confess their inability to sustain a conversation on every day topics in Cantonese, who in point of fact, candidly admit that they are utterly and wholly incapable

of distinguishing one tone from another—who as interpreters would be worse than useless. Those of our readers who are in any way competent to judge in the matter, will fully concur with us in our statement as to the relative difficulty of the written and spoken native language.

An Interpretation Corps ought to be immediately organized. It is a standing, inexcusable disgrace that such a body is not already in existence. The want of such a body of public servants has been sorely felt on several recent occasions; and this want must continue to assert itself as our relations with the Chinese improve, and as our intercourse with them increases. To begin with, it should mainly consist of Eurasians, or English lads who have been brought up in the colony, but who in every case should be thoroughly familiar with the spoken Chinese dialects, and capable of understanding the meaning of the most rapidly uttered phrases, without which an interpreter is of no value whatever. They should be thoroughly and carefully trained in both English and Chinese. Their whole course of training should extend over a period of four or five years, two at least of which should be spent in the interior, where not only should a more perfect acquaintance with colloquial be cultivated, but the easier classics and ordinary newspaper literature should be assiduously studied. The remainder of the training should be spent in Hongkong; and inasmuch as these youths would be Government servants they should, while in Hongkong, be attached as students to the Central School, where they should be afforded every facility for receiving a sound grounding in English subjects. Periodic examinations, half-yearly, say, should test the progress of the student, and the initial salary should be modified by the total number of marks gained throughout the course of study. The chief and second positions, in such a department ought to be held by English officials, whose salaries should be in proportion with the difficulties to be overcome in acquiring the requisite and suitable knowledge that such positions demand.

We were extremely pleased to note the Hon. A. P. MacEwen's question on the Interpretation question at the last meeting of the Legislative Council and, we trust that the honourable member is not going to leave the matter until he has effected some radical reform; but we were greatly disappointed with the unsatisfactory reply which it elicited. We give His Excellency Sir George D'Vaux credit for seeing much farther ahead than our last Governor, and we sincerely hope that he is giving the matter his most earnest and serious attention. This is not the first time that we have spoken about the want of proper encouragement on the part of the Government towards its servants in the matter of Chinese studies. Able and competent men

have, on more than one occasion, been practically driven out of the Civil Service by this regrettable lack of fostering encouragement. It must be fully six months since the Commissioners drew up their report on the subject of interpretation, a report which, at the time, we criticised at no inconsiderable length; yet, up to date, no active steps have been taken to remove the grave defects it complained of. Such dilatoriness is positively shameful: one of the young men favourably mentioned in the report has already quitted the Civil Service for another, where his special attainments are certain to meet with quicker and ampler reward. We ourselves frankly own that this sloth-like movement is altogether incomprehensible to us; and no possible object is to be gained by it. We have, previously drawn attention to the significant but not very generally known facts that the cadet system originally instituted to supply the colony with an efficient staff of interpreters has failed to fulfil its purposed end, and that non-cadets are offered no real inducements to undertake the work. We would again point out the discreditable and anomalous inconsistency of expecting men to tackle such a barren and difficult study as Chinese, without hope of future recompense.

Hongkong stands absolutely alone in the contempt and indifference with which it regards the action of its servants in this all-important respect. In India, in both the Civil and Military Services, a knowledge of vernacular tongues carries with it increased substantive pay; in Algiers the study of Arabic and Berber dialects is similarly promoted by the French authorities; the same holds good in Tonquin; in Egypt too, high pecuniary rewards are offered to officers and soldiers alike to induce them to gain some acquaintance with Arabic and kindred languages; in Burmah, our latest acquired possession, the Indian Government actually offered a premium of £200 sterling to any of its servants for the acquisition of Chinese, with the prospect of subsequent valuable appointments. In the Straits Settlements, colloquial proficiency in Malay or Chinese brings with it increased salary; at the Cape, a knowledge of the Kaffir or Zulu tongues is substantially rewarded; in the neighbouring Dutch colonies, knowledge of the native languages enhances an officer's value in the eyes of his Government; in the Imperial Chinese Customs Service, the greater a man's attainments are in this respect, the greater are his chances of early and rapid promotion. Such marks of approval are only just and right, since the increased knowledge referred to in each particular instance necessarily brings with it added usefulness. Promotion in the Hongkong Civil Service is the nominal reward for proficiency in Chinese studies; we repeat, the nominal not the actual reward; for we have instances in our mind's eye, of officers who have been diligent servants for quite a number of years, and who are likewise fair and capable students of Chinese, in spite of the constant discouragement which they have uniformly encountered, and yet who are, for all practical purposes no better off than when they first entered the Colony. This is plainly not as it should be; and our excellent and enlightened Governor should do all that is in his power to wipe away these serious blemishes. The planets are the most brilliant objects in the midnight sky: the firmament of our local Civil Service is set with both fixed stars and planets, i.e., those who shine with their own, and those who shine with reflected light; unfortunately the latter class is by far the more numerous and prominent of the two.

I E L E G R A M S.

(Reuter.)

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, 20th April.

The House of Commons has read a second time the Local Government Bill.

It is stated that Mr. Chamberlain has resigned from the National Liberal Club and it is hinted that he will possibly enter the Cabinet.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE British gunboat *Essoir*, Lieut. Commander R. Y. Smith, arrived yesterday from Canton.

THE agent of the Messageries Maritimes Company courteously informs us that the Company's steamship *Djennah*, with the next French mail, left Saigon yesterday at 11 p.m. for this port.

AN Emergency meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Friday, the 27th instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

We would draw attention to the alterations in the departure of the Pacific Mail steamer for San Francisco via Yokohama. The *City of Sydney* will be despatched on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.; and the O. & O. S. S. Co.'s *Oceanic*, on Thursday, May 10th, at the same hour.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.) that the China Shippers' Mutual S. N. Co.'s steamer *Osprey*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for this port last night, and may be expected on or about the 29th inst.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 1911

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1888.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

Banks.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

1.—THE BUSINESS of the above BANK will be conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on their premises in Hongkong. Business Hours on WEEK-DAYS, 10 to 3; SATURDAYS, 10 to 1. SUMS LESS THAN \$1, OR MORE THAN \$750 at one time will not be received. No Depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

2.—DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK, having \$100, or more, at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent, per annum interest.

3.—INTEREST at the rate of 3 1/2% per annum will be allowed to Depositors on their daily balances.

4.—EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Visitors must not make any entries themselves in their PASS-BOOKS, but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

5.—CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

6.—WITHDRAWALS may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and the production of his PASS-BOOK, are necessary.

7.—THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1887.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL \$2,000,000.

PAID-UP CAPITAL 500,000.

Registered Office, 40, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT, Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE, ISSUES LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS : Fixed for 12 months, 5 per cent. per annum. " " 4 " " " ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

APPROVED CLAIMS on the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, in Liquidation, or the BALANCES of such claims, purchased on advantageous terms.

AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

E. W. RUTTER,
Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$7,500,000.

RESERVE FUND 3,900,000.

RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS 7,500,000.

COURT OF DIRECTORS :—

CHAIRMAN—HON. JOHN BELL-IRVING.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—W. H. FORBES, Esq.

C. D. BOTTOMLEY, Esq.

HON. A. P. MC EWEN,

W. G. BRODIE, Esq.

S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.

H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.

J. S. MOSES, Esq.

H. HOPKINS, Esq.

L. POESNECKER, Esq.

B. LAYTON, Esq.

E. A. SOLOMON, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.

HONGKONG—THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER.

SILHAGH—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

London BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

at the rate of a per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS :—

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

For 6 months, 4 per cent. per annum.

For 12 months, 5 per cent. per annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and every description of BANKING and EXCHANGE business transacted.

DRAFFTS granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1888.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS
are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this HARBOR, none of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HARBOR OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.

In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.

D. GILLES,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 15th August, 1888.

[18]

Intimations.

ROBERT LANG & CO., TAILORS, HATTERS, SHIRTMAKERS, AND GENERAL OUTFITTERS.

N E W G O O D S .

TALL SILK HATS.
Drab Felt Hats.
Ulster Tweeds.
Black, Brown Drab, and Grey Hard Felt Hats.
Terai and other Soft Felt.
Tweed Hats and Caps in New Shapes.
Straw Hats and Pith Hats.
Silk Umbrellas from \$5 each, over 100 to choose from.
A large assortment of Walking Sticks.
Waterproof Coats, Leggings & Chain Aprons.
Travelling Rugs and Scotch Mauds.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1888.

ROBT. LANG & CO.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1888.